

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT. MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. HELP FOR ZAIRE?

A. EGYPT PLANS TO HELP

IN A REVIEW OF THE SHABA CONFLICT ON APRIL 17, PRESIDENT SADAT TOLD AMBASSADOR EILTS THAT EGYPT SHARES WITH THE US AND OTHERS A "MORAL OBLIGATION" TO KEEP THE SOVIETS FROM HAVING A FREE HAND IN AFRICA. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE US WILL JOIN WITH EGYPT IN PROVIDING AID TO ZAIRE. SADAT ALSO SAID:

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--EGYPT'S ASSISTANCE TO MOBUTU MAY TAKE THE FORM OF PILOTS AND GROUND CREWS FOR ZAIRIAN MIRAGES.

--FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY WILL SOON GIVE AMBASSADOR EILTS A LIST OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR AFRICA.

--AN EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION IN ZAIRE HAS CONFIRMED

THE US IMPRESSION THAT, CONTRARY TO MOBUTU'S CLAIM, NO SOVIET T-54 OR T-55 TANKS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TO SHABA.

--HE WILL DISCUSS PLANS WITH MOROCCAN KING HASSAN TO APPLY COORDINATED PRESSURE ON MOBUTU TO PUT A "NEW FACE" ON HIS REGIME BY CURBING CORRUPTION AND IMPROVING THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION.

B. JORDAN DOESN'T

KING HUSSEIN TOLD AMBASSADOR PICKERING ON APRIL 16 THAT KING HASSAN ASKED HIM FOR "MORAL SUPPORT" FOR MOROCCAN ACTIONS IN ZAIRE. HUSSEIN SAID HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO GIVE MORAL SUPPORT, BUT HE DECLINED TO COMMIT HIMSELF FURTHER. THE MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY COMMENTED TO PICKERING THAT HUSSEIN'S RELUCTANCE IS BASED ON THE US POSTURE OF "HANGING BACK." (SECRET) CAIRO 6386 (EXDIS) AND AMMAN 2184 (LIMDIS), 4/17.)

2. SOMALIA: CHANGE YOUR PARTNERS...

SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON ABDULLAHI AHMED ADDOU, IN MOGADISCIO FOR CONSULTATIONS, MET WITH CHARGE JACOBS ON APRIL 16 TO CONVEY PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS "NO HOPE" OF SOMALI-SOVIET RAPPROCHEMENT. ADDOU SAID SOMALIA IS THEREFORE PREPARED TO GO "ALL THE WAY" WITH THE US PROVIDED THAT WE OFFER A REAL ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIET MILITARY AID. HE TOLD JACOBS:

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--THE CASTRO/PODGORNY EFFORT TO INDUCE SOMALIA TO PUT OFF ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON ETHIOPIA WHILE MENGISTU CONSOLIDATED HIS MARXIST REGIME FAILED BECAUSE OF SOMALIA'S FIXED RESOLVE TO WIN "SELF-DETERMINATION" RIGHTS FOR ETHNIC SOMALIS IN EASTERN ETHIOPIA (THE OGADEN). ADDOU REMARKED THAT THE SPLIT IS SO WIDE THAT IF ETHIOPIA WERE TO BECOME A MOSLEM COUNTRY, SOMALIA WOULD HAVE TO ADOPT CHRISTIANITY.

--SIAD IS CONVINCED THE SOVIETS ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORT THE MENGISTU REGIME DESPITE SOMALI REACTION.

--ALTHOUGH COMMITTED TO MOVING AWAY FROM DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS, SOMALIA MUST PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY UNTIL AN ALTERNATIVE POLITICAL/MILITARY SUPPORT IS ASSURED.

--SOMALIA HAS OBTAINED SIGNIFICANT AID COMMITMENTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA (AS REPORTED IN THE APRIL 13 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY), AND THERE WILL SOON BE "FAR-

REACHING" MOVES BY BOTH SIDES TO CEMENT THE NEW RELATIONSHIP.

--THE US NOW HAS THE "HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY" TO REVERSE ITS FORTUNES IN SOMALIA BY PROVIDING TIMELY AND GENEROUS ASSISTANCE, MAINLY WITH MILITARY HARDWARE.

CHARGE'S COMMENT: REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF SOVIET ACCESS TO SOMALI STRATEGIC FACILITIES WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT GAIN FOR THE US, WHICH IS WORTH A PRICE. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE SOMALI OVERTURES, BOTH BILATERALLY AND AS PART OF A LARGER INTERNATIONAL AID EFFORT. SINCE SOMALI AND ARAB INTENTIONS TOWARD ETHIOPIA REMAIN UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, THE US REACTION SHOULD NOT BE PRECIPITOUS--ESPECIALLY IF WE ARE TO SUPPLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE. (SECRET) MOGADISCO 634 (EXDIS), 4/17.)

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3. BHUTTO'S PRESS CONFERENCE: TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE?

EMBASSY ISLAMABAD BELIEVES THE PROPOSALS WHICH BHUTTO ANNOUNCED AT HIS ANXIOUSLY AWAITED PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 17 WERE TRANSPARENT MOVES TO MOLLIFY CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS IN THE OPPOSITION ALLIANCE, AND WILL BE REJECTED AS INADEQUATE. BHUTTO OFFERED:

--TO HOLD FRESH PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS WITH POSSIBLE NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS IF THE OPPOSITION SUCCEEDS ON THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL, A PLAN THE OPPOSITION HAS ALREADY REJECTED;

--TO LIFT LONG-STANDING EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS IF VIOLENCE STOPS;

--TO REVIVE THE COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY CHARGED WITH RECONCILING PAKISTANI AND ISLAMIC LAW;

--TO BAN GAMBLING AND THE SALE OF WINE AND LIQUOR TO ALL BUT FOREIGNERS AND NON-MUSLIMS; AND

--TO TRANSFER JAILED OPPOSITION LEADERS TO ONE LOCATION SO THEY MAY JOINTLY CONSIDER HIS PROPOSALS.

SINCE BHUTTO DID NOT MEET THE OPPOSITION'S BASIC DEMAND, THAT HE RESIGN AND CALL NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT THE CRISIS WILL CONTINUE. (CONFIDENTIAL) ISLAMABAD 3741, 4/17.)

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